

BillionGraves and FindaGrave

What are the differences between two popular websites dedicated to helping people find the graves of their ancestors, namely BillionGraves.com and FindaGrave.com?

BILLIONGRAVES.COM

The focus of BillionGraves.com is photographs of headstones with their geolocation tags. That is, to submit a photograph to BillionGraves, one must use their app and a GPS enabled camera or smart phone. Although it is possible to add other information to a person, that is not the focus of the website.

A strength of Billiongraves is that within the limitations of the GPS accuracy of the contributors, the site easily pinpoints the location of a headstone within the cemetery, saving hours for the visitor trying to find the headstone. Another strength of the site is showing on a map the location of nearby cemeteries that have been registered with the site, whether or not they have photographs.

FINDAGRAVE.COM

The focus of Findagrave.com is on the individual. Contributors can create a “memorial” (web page) for anyone. There is no requirement for a photograph of a headstone or anythings else but a name.

Having said that, let me quickly add that a strength of Findagrave is that so many kinds of additional information can be added. A Findagrave memorial can potentially contain:

- complete birth entry (with full date and full location (Town, County, State, Nation))
- complete death entry
- “hot links” to parents, spouses, siblings and children
- a biography or obituary
- photograph of the person
- photograph of the headstone
- photographs of birth certificate and death certificate
- exact location of cemetery
- plot number of the grave

A WORD OF CAUTION:

All of the information in BillionGraves and FindaGrave is secondary, not primary (with the exception of the location of the grave). That is, despite efforts to ensure accuracy, there is no way in either site to document the primary sources of the information (OK, displaying the birth and death certificates is a form of documentation). Even though a date is “carved in stone” the stone is a secondary source, not a birth or death certificate.

OTHER SITES

There are several other sites